

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A medication dispensing apparatus comprising:

a housing;

a drive member within said housing and movable in a distal direction;

a fluid container defining a medicine-filled reservoir with a movable piston at one end and an outlet at the other end, said piston engageable by said drive member to be advanced toward said outlet a distance equal to a distal movement of said drive member when said drive member is moved distally;

~~means for driving said drive member distally, said driving means including a plunger element;~~ [[and]]

a gear set including first and second pinions, said gear set pivotal on said plunger element and shiftable proximally and distally with the plunger element;

a first rack engaged with said first pinion and axially stationary within said housing;

a second rack engaged with said second pinion and movable within said housing on a piece clutchably connected to said drive member;

a latching element including a latching lip and a skid;

said drive member including an axially extending, skid-engaging surface along which said skid is slidable as said drive member passes distally during advancement during plunger element shifting in the distal direction, said skid-engaging surface having an axial length and a proximal end, said drive member along said axial length structured and arranged with said skid so as to maintain said latching lip against a spring force in a first position free of ~~said driving means~~ a latchable element disposed on said plunger element during dose preparing and injecting prior to a final dose administration; and

wherein said skid-engaging surface shifts distally of said skid such that said skid passes beyond the proximal end upon administration of a final dose, ~~whereby~~ allowing said latching lip ~~[[is]] to be urged by said spring force from said first position to a second position for engagement with said latchable element~~ to physically lock said ~~driving means~~ plunger element to prevent further dose preparing and injecting, ~~wherein in said second position said latching lip engages a latchable element disposed on said plunger element.~~

2. (Previously Presented) The medication dispensing apparatus of claim 1 wherein said proximal end of said skid-engaging surface comprises a proximal end of said drive member.

3. (Previously Presented) The medication dispensing apparatus of claim 1 wherein said skid is disposed distally of said latching lip.

4. (Previously Presented) The medication dispensing apparatus of claim 1 wherein said skid comprises a blade shape member that extends axially, and wherein said latching lip comprises a transversely extending flange.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Previously Presented) The medication dispensing apparatus of claim 1 wherein said latchable element comprises a ramped distal face over which said latching lip is cammable to reach a latching engagement with said latchable element.

7. (Previously Presented) The medication dispensing apparatus of claim 1 wherein said latching element is axially fixed to said housing by at least one flange fit into a slot provided in said housing.

8. (Previously Presented) The medication dispensing apparatus of claim 1 wherein said spring force acting on said latching element comprises a resiliency of said latching element tending to return said latching lip to a neutral arrangement.

9. (Previously Presented) The medication dispensing apparatus of claim 8 wherein said latching element comprises a one piece metal stamping.

10. (Previously Presented) The medication dispensing apparatus of claim 1 wherein said skid-engaging surface is smooth.

11. (Previously Presented) The medication dispensing apparatus of claim 1 wherein said latching lip comprises a rim along an opening through which a latchable element extends to reach a latching engagement with said latching element.